

- **Additional transit systems to provide more transportation choices**
The State needs additional transit to allow greater choice for citizens and to allow its urban regions to grow more efficiently. Transit requires secure funding streams at the state and local level. The State needs to provide funding and to allow its cities and regions to develop revenue sources that will allow long term planning and commitment.

- **Opportunities**

- **The State should seize the opportunities provided by new federal funding**

The passage of P. L. 110-432, the Railroad Safety Enhancement Act of 2008, is expected to lead to major funding increases from the federal government. State matching funds will be required. DOT should identify projects that qualify for this funding and any infrastructure funding that becomes available.

- **The State rail program should complement the renewed investment spending of the freight railroads**

During recent periods of a strong economy the Class I railroads have become profitable enough to make investments in expanding their capabilities and improving service.

- **The State should continue its support of the Short lines**

The State has an active short line railroad industry that has invested in infrastructure. The NC DOT Rail Division has a program to support these investments.

- **The State should fund more frequent Amtrak service and seek federal funds to complement state funds for passenger service from Salisbury to Asheville and from Raleigh to Wilmington through Fayetteville and Goldsboro**

DOT should continue its studies of the feasibility and potential of these routes and apply for federal funds as available.

- **The State should be aggressive in its support of local transit initiatives**

Success of the first Charlotte transit project, with ridership strongly exceeding projections, is encouraging other regions to plan for transit.

2. **North Carolina should develop and use measures to quantify the benefits of various rail projects and investments**

The magnitude of the needs and opportunities that have been identified will give the state many choices for the use of limited funds. NC DOT is developing quantitative measures for its State Rail Plan update that will give the Department the ability to choose projects based on their costs and potential benefits.